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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/068,157	02/06/2002	Peter D. Hallenbeck	013883-000001	7492
24239	7590	05/24/2005	EXAMINER	
MOORE & VAN ALLEN PLLC P.O. BOX 13706 Research Triangle Park, NC 27709			LIN, KENNY S	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2154	

DATE MAILED: 05/24/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/068,157

Applicant(s)

HALLENBECK, PETER D.

Examiner

Kenny Lin

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-64 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

**DETAILED ACTION**

1. Claims 1-64 are presented for examination.
2. Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:
  - I. Claims 1-6, drawn to data structure, classified in class 707, subclass 100.
  - II. Claims 11-15 and 61-64, drawn to network configuration and determination using a particular technique, classified in class 370, subclass 255.
  - III. Claims 16-21, drawn to access another computer's memory, classified in class 709, subclass 216.
  - IV. Claims 22-27, drawn to multicomputer data transferring, classified in class 709, subclass 213.
  - V. Claims 28-35, drawn to computer conferencing, classified in class 709, subclass 204.
  - VI. Claims 36-48, drawn to input/output data processing, classified in class 710, subclass 1.
  - VII. Claims 49-54, drawn to computer-to-computer data framing, classified in class 709, subclass 236.
  - VIII. Claims 55-56, drawn to computer-to-computer data modifying, classified in class 709, subclass 246.
  - IX. Claims 7-10 and 57-60, drawn to input/output command process, classified in class 710, subclass 5.

3. The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I, II, III, IV, V, VI, VII, VIII and IX are related as subcombinations disclosed as usable together in a single combination. The subcombinations are distinct from each other if they are shown to be separately usable. In the instant case, invention I has separate utility such as a data structure comprising input identifiers, input event descriptions and action descriptions in association. Invention II has separate utility such as producing Boolean results, applying logical relationship to the Boolean results to produce virtual inputs and set storage bit to correspond the virtual inputs. Invention III has separate utility such as detecting input event by reference to a scan table stored in memory and updating internal variable. Invention IV has separate utility such as detecting the premises-related event by reference to at least one data structure stored in memory specifying the premises-related event in association with an input identifier and sending a packet over a network in response to the premises-related event.

Invention V has separate utility such as receiving a packet over a network directed to change in a state of the output, setting the output in accordance with the output identifier and the change in the state indicated in the packet. Invention VI has separate utility such as a processor for controlling the operation of the I/O unit and a memory encoded with program code to enable the processor to control the operation of the I/O unit to send packet over network connection.

Invention VII has separate utility such as assembling a packet including an output identifier corresponding to the output and change in the state and sending the packet over a network.

Invention VIII has separate utility such as a processor-controlled apparatus comprising a processor for controlling the operations of the processor-controlled apparatus. Invention IX has separate utility such as a description of a logical relationship. See MPEP § 806.05(d).

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4. Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their different classification, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and the search required for a particular Group is not required for the other Groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

5. A telephone call was made to Steven Philips, Reg. No. 37,911, on May 17, 2005 to request an oral election to the above restriction requirement, but did not result in an election being made.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kenny Lin whose telephone number is (571) 272-3968. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 AM to 5 PM Tue.-Fri. and every other Monday.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John Follansbee can be reached on (571) 272-3964. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

ksl  
May 17, 2005

 JOHN FOLLANSBEE  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100